

We are going to eliminate the whole program to stop Iran from developing a nuclear program, and he did.

So for the Republicans to come before us today and argue that we are not being tough enough on Iran, I would like to tell them that I am not going to make excuses for Iran and its foreign policy. But there are nuclear weapons we had a chance to do something about, and some of us voted for it, some of us voted against it. I think that ought to be a matter of public record.

#### HONORING OFFICER ANDRES VASQUEZ-LASSO

Madam President, on a separate subject matter, the city of Chicago, which I represent, is a city in mourning today.

Last Thursday, Chicago police officer Andres Vasquez-Lasso was killed while responding to a domestic violence 911 call that ended in a chase and an exchange of gunfire with the suspect. Officer Vasquez-Lasso was 32 years old. He had been on the police force for 5 years. He is married. The man accused of killing him is 18 years old.

Officer Vasquez-Lasso had chased this man a short distance on foot when the man reportedly turned on him, pointed a gun at him, and killed him. That chase ended on the playground of an elementary school in the city of Chicago where neighborhood kids were playing. As the bullets flew, the children took cover under slides and other playground equipment. Officer Vasquez-Lasso was shot three times—in the arm, leg, and head.

He was the first Chicago police officer killed in the line of duty since Officer Ella French was murdered 18 months ago during a traffic stop. They had a memorial service for Officer French. My wife and I went to it. It was at St. Rita High School in the Beverly section of Chicago. I have never seen a larger outpouring of men and women in uniform come and pay tribute to this officer who was killed in a traffic stop.

I was there with my wife, and we had a personal feeling about the occasion once we went inside, saw her family, and heard more about her life. I got to know her mom. And when the time came, we picked a program to help police across the United States, and we are working to name it after her in her honor for serving not only the city of Chicago but the country in protecting us. Sadly, here we are again.

Officer Vasquez-Lasso just didn't protect the Southwest Side neighborhood where he served. He actually lived there. He and his wife had bought a home only 2 and a half miles from where he was killed about a year and a half ago. And I want to say clearly for the record something that needs to be said: Officer Vasquez-Lasso was an immigrant to this country. He came here from Colombia. He became a citizen and became a police officer, and he gave his life for the people who live in this country.

On this Wednesday night, police officers, other first responders, and com-

munity members lined the streets to salute the ambulance carrying his body as it drove slowly from the hospital where he died to the county medical examiner's office.

On Thursday, black bunting draped the entrance to the 8th district headquarters where Officer Vasquez-Lasso was assigned. Several vigils have been held around the city of Chicago since his death. The largest was a candlelight prayer vigil Thursday evening in Hale Park, attended by the officer's wife and mother. Hundreds of police officers, community members, and friends came out to pay their respects. A friend at the prayer vigil recalled that Officer Vasquez-Lasso was "always a proper man." A fellow officer said, "He was always smiling."

Today, a memorial stands on the block where he was shot down. People drop off flowers and notes and other tributes. A rosary hangs on the fence. Illinois Governor J.P. Pritzker has ordered all flags in our State to fly at half-staff until Officer Vasquez-Lasso is laid to rest on Thursday.

These are especially difficult times to be a member of law enforcement. A growing arsenal of high-powered guns in the hands of criminals and domestic abusers makes policing more dangerous than it has ever been. Domestic violence calls are always fraught with danger for police, victims, and innocent people standing by.

At the suspect's bail hearing, Judge Mary Marubio noted that danger when she said:

This case, from start to finish, it begins in violence and it ends in violence.

The director of a local domestic violence prevention organization said, "Your heart breaks because it was all so preventable."

Madam President, for the sake of law enforcement officers who protect our communities and the victims of violence, we must do more to break the cycle of violence that kills far too many and leaves many more scarred. We must—must—do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who flatly should not have them.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that Congress passed last year in the wake of the horrific Uvalde school shooting made important progress, but more is needed to protect our communities and our law enforcement officers.

In closing, I want to offer my condolences to Officer Vasquez-Lasso's family, especially his wife Milena Estepa, his mother Rocio Lasso, his sister, and niece, as well as his fellow officers in the Chicago Police Department, and his many, many friends.

Officer Vasquez-Lasso gave his life protecting his community. He was protecting the children on that playground and the families living in the community that he personally called home.

We join the city of Chicago in saluting his courage and mourning his loss.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Madam President, last week, pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly announced that it was going to lower the price of its insulin product. It is called Humalog. They are going to lower it dramatically by 70 percent and cap the out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35 a month. After two decades of price gouging, this is a major relief for more than 7 million patients—more than 200,000 living in my State of Illinois—who depend on insulin every day to stay alive.

But, despite the importance of this announcement, I won't be sending thank-you cards to the executives of this pharmaceutical company. You see, it was a century ago—100 years ago—when basic forms of insulin were discovered. The Nobel Prize-winning researchers who pioneered that discovery surrendered the patent rights—their property rights—in this new discovery for \$1. Why? To prevent profiteering on this lifesaving medication.

Now fast-forward almost 100 years to 1996. Eli Lilly introduces its insulin drug Humalog. They set the price of a vial of this insulin at \$21. It made sense, as it only cost a few dollars to manufacture. But in the years since 1996, Eli Lilly prioritized profits over patients. The same vial of insulin that Eli Lilly first sold for \$21 was now being sold for \$300. Eli Lilly raised the price more than 30 separate times.

What happened to the same drug, made by the same company, sold in Canada? It was only \$40. But it was \$300 in the United States. Is it any wonder that Eli Lilly generated more than \$22 billion in revenue from insulin alone in 2014 and 2018?

Let me repeat that. There was \$22 billion in revenue during that 4-year period.

Let's be clear. During the same time, Eli Lilly spent \$1.5 billion on sales and marketing for insulin. Try to turn on the television set and get away with not seeing a pharmaceutical commercial from this company and so many others. Eli Lilly spent four times more than it spent on research for marketing this product and others.

The company's profit-taking on this life-or-death drug has had deadly consequences. When the price went up to \$300 a month, many people just couldn't afford it. More than 1 million Americans report having to ration or cut back doses of insulin—an extremely dangerous gamble.

I received a letter from one of my constituents from Palos Park, who faced that. His name is Phil. He is 73 years old. Phil told me he has had to skip insulin injections because of the cost. He wrote that he was "anxiously awaiting lower prescription prices."

Well, there is good news for Phil and a lot of other Americans. You don't have to wait any longer. Last year, the Democrats lowered the cost of prescription drugs.

Why didn't I say that the Senate lowered the cost? Because not a single Republican would vote for it—not one.